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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/940,941	08/28/2001	Atsushi Sogabe	211352	6205

23460 7590 05/22/2003

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EXAMINER

SLOBODYANSKY, ELIZABETH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1652

DATE MAILED: 05/22/2003

15

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/940,941	SOGABE ET AL.
	Examiner Elizabeth Slobodyansky	Art Unit 1652

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

THE REPLY FILED FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) The period for reply expires ____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on 06 May 2003. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 - (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See Continuation Sheet.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): ____.
4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) ____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: ____.

Claim(s) objected to: ____.

Claim(s) rejected: 24-42.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: ____.

8. The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). ____.

10. Other: Interview Summary (Paper # 11)


Elizabeth Slobodyansky
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1652

Continuation of 2. NOTE: Applicants amended the specification and the claims to recite pl ca. 4.5 instead of pl ca. 3.5 as recited in the issued patent. Such amendment represent new matter. Applicants changed the scope of the claims by reciting the properties other than properties recited in the finally rejected claims requiring further considerarion and/or search.

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicants argue that pl ca.3.5 was a typographical error (Remarks, page 14, last paragraph). They provide no evidence of that. Applicants further argue that pl 4.5 is inherent pl of the wild-type amidinohydrolase of SEQ ID NO:1. While this may be the case, the current claims are drawn to a genus of mutated amidinohydrolases. Even for the representative species of said genus, i.e., mutated amidinohydrolases encoded by the deposited plasmids, the amino acid sequences are not diclosed but are definitely different from SEQ ID NO:1 resulting in changes in Km in the mutants compared with the wild-type.

Applicants requested a personal interview with the examiner (page 13). The application has been discussed with applicant's attorney Mr. Kilyk on several occassions (see at least Interview Summary attached hereto and to the Office action mailed November 1, 2002). In view of that and the condition of the claims, the examiner belives that the interview at this stage of the prosecution will not be productive.